

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 are currently being amended.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-12 are now pending in this application.

Rejection of Claims 1-12 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Paragraph 2

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

The Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 2 for clarity and believe that Claims 1 and 2 now meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2 be withdrawn. As Claims 3-12 variously depend from Claims 1 and 2, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 3-12 be withdrawn as well.

Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as Being Anticipated By Either Nomura, Omi, Kodaka, or Iwamura

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either Nomura '868, Omi et al., Kodaka, or Iwamura.

The Applicants have amended Claim 1 to further include:

“the adjustment groove having at least two pin movement sections that allow the adjustment pin to move in a desired axial direction, the adjustment groove further comprising at least one pin-stopping section installed between the two pin movement sections, the pin-stopping section being configured to engage the adjustment pin to prevent the adjustment pin from moving in the desired axial direction so that it is possible to securely maintain an adjustment pin position in the adjustment groove.”

None of the references cited by the Examiner appear to disclose the combination of elements and limitations of Claim 1, as amended. None of the structures of the references that the Examiner has characterized as pin-stopping sections appear to be installed between two pin movement sections and configured to “prevent the adjustment pin from moving in the desired axial direction so that it is possible to securely maintain an adjustment pin position in the adjustment groove.” Therefore, Applicants assert that the references fail to identically disclose the “Twist Up device” of Claim 1. The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) under any of the references cited by the Examiner is therefore improper. Claim 1 is patentable over Nomura ‘868, Omi et al., Kodaka, and Iwamura. Dependent Claim 7, which depends from Claim 1 is patentable for at least the same reasons. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as Being Anticipated By Takanashi et al.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 and 5 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as Being Anticipated By Takanashi. Applicants believe that Takanashi does not identically disclose the elements and limitations of Claims 1 and 2, as amended. Furthermore, the Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s characterization of Takanashi’s 3d2 as the pin-stopping section of claim 2 and the angled contact section of claim 5. Takanashi describes structure 3d as an “aperture groove 3d of the cam ring 3, and due to rotation of the aperture ring 6, the aperture blades 7 move circularly about the blade pins 7a, to change the aperture opening.” Col. 4, lines 63-67. See also Col. 7, lines 12-20. Applicants respectfully assert that aperture groove 3d and contact face 3d2 of Takanashi are not the pin-stopping section of claim 2 and the angled contact

section of claim 5. Furthermore, 3d and 3d2 do not "securely maintain an adjustment pin position in the adjustment groove" or allow "a lens to be adjusted in stages, and at each stage a certain lens distance can be maintained even if a force is applied to the adjustment ring in a desired rotation direction and axial direction of the adjustment ring." Therefore, Applicants assert that the Takanashi fails to identically disclose the devices of claims 1-3 and 5. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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